DEMOCRATIC CORRUPTION

PUBLIC PRINTING.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Corrupt Contracts with Engravers, Lithographers and Paper Merchants.

SEAMAN'S AND WENDELL'S PROFITS.

Mr. George Taylor, Chairman of the Select Com mit ee of the House of Representatives, made on The Select Committee appointed to investigate the secounts of the late Superintendent of Public Printing

The resolution creating the Committee was adopted

The resolution creating the Committee was adopted by the House of Representatives on the 22d day of December last, but the Committee was not announced until the 17th day of January. On the 18th day of January the Committee organized, and, in pursuance of a resolution of the House, appointed Theodore F. Andrews their clerk and stenographer.

Your Committee began their examination by calling the present Superintendent, George W. Bowman, before them, in order to ascertain how the office of Seprintendent is organized. It is proper here to state that the office of Superintendent was created by the act of August 26, 1852. The first Superintendent died within a year after his appointment, and Mr. Meman, whose accounts your Committee were directed to investigate, was appointed in the Fall of 1853. He was reappointed in December, 1855, and continued in effice until December, 1857, at which time he was succeeded by the present Superintendent.

effice until December, 1857, at which time he was succeeded by the present Superintendent.

The Committee have confined their examination as nearly as possible to the period of Mr. Seaman s superintendency—that is, from December, 1853, to December, 1857. Much irrelevant testimony has been taken, by reason of the nature of the examination and from the necessity imposed upon the Committee to recort to every expedient to draw facts from reluctant witnesses. While the entire record is presented for the examination, of the House, the Committee base their consideration of the House, the Con report upon such facts only as have been established

by direct and competent testimony.
Your Committee have given to the subject entrusted to them as thorough an examination as their limited time allowed. And they believe that as many materials are the subject to the s time allowed. And they believe that he may mader rial facts have been developed as was possible under the peculiar and embarrassing circumstances under which they have acted. They doem it proper here to state that, both with reference to the attendance of witeerees summoned (two of whom they felt obliged to report specially to the House for conturnacy), and with reference to the extreme difficulty experienced in obtaining from some of the witnesses the disclosure of facts evidently within their knowledge, that the investigation has been attended with difficulties of no ordinary character; and that owing to these difficulties many material matters are suggested in the evidence which it has not been in the power of the Committee fully to disclose.

HOW THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

WERE KEPT.

It has been found that the books of the late Superintendent have been kept in a manner so loose and
negligent as to make it almost impossible to ascertain,
with any proper correctness, the condition of the accounts between his office and the Government.

The testimony of Dr. Quail shows that it cannot be ascertained from these books, within some hundreds of reans, how much paper was received, nor how much was delivered to the Public Printer; and that neither bese accounts nor the account of paper on hand can be balanced. Large involves of paper were received without any inspection, and sometimes by an irrespon-tible party in the employ of the Public Printer. A laborer or watchman in Mr. Wendell's office appears laborer or watchman in Mr. Wendell's office appears to have had, to a very great extent, the charge of the delivery of the paper to the Public Printer. His memorandums were kept on loose slips of paper, afterward sent to the clerk whose duty it was to superintend this matter. From these slips the official receipts were made up monthly; but, as in the case of the other accounts, the official receipts and the slips do not agree. Those slips have been collected and pasted into a book for reference by the present Superintendent. Some paper described in them is not covered by any official receipt. any official receipt.

In further illustration of the manner in which the

In further illustration of the manner in which the books were kept, your Committee would refer to the accounts for paper furnished to the binders for waste leaves. Prior to the 1st of April, 1856, paper for those leaves was furnished by the Superintendent of Pablic Printing. The binders charged the same to the Senate and House, and it was paid for at stipulated prices out of the contingent fund of the two houses. It then became the daty of the binders to pay back the account of the contingent fund of the two houses. amount so collected to the Superintendent of Public Printing, to close his account for the paper supplied. The accounts kept by the Superintendent with the public binders appear to have been closed by double red lines drawn underseath them. Some instances occur of lateral lines drawn across the page below, wish the words "carried forward," in which a re-ference to the pages to which such accounts are severally professedly carried, shows no balance really carried forward, and these accounts, therefore, show

carried forward, and these accounts, therefore, such as balances due to the Government.

Upon an investigation, the present Superintendent, G. W. Bowman, ascertained these facts: that accounts purporting to be closed had not been in fact closed, and that large quantities of paper furnished to binders, prior to his sppointment, had not been paid for. These accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the accounts. Arrold was speken to on the subject, he said the ac-count had been rettled by way of a loan to Mr. Ses-man; that he had refused to make the loan, until Mr. Seaman promised to arrange it in the estilement of his waste-leaf account. This, however, was not done, and Mr. Arneld paid the amount to Mr. Bowman. he same was the case in another bill of less amount. Notwith-tanding the fact that \$2,791 96 have been

continuous the fact that \$2.70 to have been counts re-ferred to, since the appointment of the present Super-intendent, there is still a considerable discrepancy be-tween the quantity of paper required for waste leaves and the amount received from the binders.

DECEPTIVE EXTRIES. DECEPTIVE ENTRIES.

No account was kept between the Government and the Superintendent to show the amount of money received for paper supplied to the binders. The only memoranda of any such money is found in connection memorands of any such money is found in connection with the account of paper received from Sylvester J.

Megargee. It appears that Mr. Sesman assumed the payment of \$10,424 \$1 to Mr. Megargee for 1,724 reams 45 pounds paper on the 14th day of April, 1856.

The entry shows that the same was to be paid out of money collected for waste leaves; and it appears to have been intended to convey the idea that the 1,724 reams of paper thus settled for covered the whole amount used by the binders up to the 1st of April, 1856, which was not the case. In this instance the books were well calculated to induce the benefithat the accounts were closed, and thus to deceive; while the testimony shows that Mr. Seamanknew that money was due on these secounts, and that long after that was due on these accounts, and that long after the date his clerk, Mr. Jewett, tried to collect the same.

PAYMENTS MADE FOR WORK NOT DONE. The books also disclose payments to the bind for the House for volumes which were not credit either in the Superintendent's books or at the foliaing-room. Various small items of this character appear, and there is no way to explain them. In this
particular great liberties undoubtedly were taken by
the parties doing the public work. The number of
volumes ordered were not always bound, and in some
cases not printed. The evidence of these facts in regard to the binding is positive and direct, and in regard
to the printing is almost as conclusive. The accounts
at the House folding room were short at the time Mr.
Seaman went out of office 2,939 volumes, but the dehveries since that time have reduced the discrepancy either in the Superintendent's books or at the fold-ing-room. Various small items of this character ap Seaman went out of office 2,939 volumes, but the de-hveries since that time have reduced the discrepancy between the number ordered by the House and the

nes. e loose manuer in which these accounts have been kept has prevented the Committee from asce-taining whether these volumes were ever bound be the public binders; but it appears that certificates for the whole number ordered by Congress have uniformly been issued, and in a few instances those certificates embrace more volumes than were ordered to be printed and bound.

In the examination of the accounts for engraving ographing, your Comunities found that the amounts of the certificates issued and charged to them. In one instance this difference amounted to about \$10,000, and in another to \$6.736.76. In one or two instances, the books of engravers and lithographers were balanced by fictitious entries: but, in those cases, the amounts of money credited, as received from the Government, did not correspond with the certificates charged to the parties. In fact, there appears to have been a singular fatality about the books and secounts connected with these matters. Few of them could be explained, and none of them were entirely satisfactory.

THE CONTRACTS FOR ENGRAVING AND LUTIO. nots of the certificates issued and charged to them.

THE CONTRACTS FOR ENGRAVING AND LITHO-

Your Committee ascertained that when the engraying and lithographing were contracted for during the session of Congress, it was done generally under the direction of the Committee, or at prices fixed by them. When the Committee did not direct the empleymet of particular parties, they instructed the Su-permetendent to employ parties to do the work at the

specified scale of prices generally, but in some in-stances left to his discretion. The chairman of the Committee on Engraving testified that Mr. Seaman had recommended the employment of certain en-gravers and lithographers as account of their mechan-ical skill or their ability to execute the work, and that the Committee relied upon his judgment in those

matters.

HOW CONTRACTS ARE OBTAINED.

The Chairman of the Engraving Committee in the Thirty-fourth Congress says that Mr. Seaman had recommended for employment P. S. Daval & Co., John Cassin, Van Ingen & Snyder and Sinclair & Co. of Philadelphia; A. Hoen & Co. of Baltimore; and Strony, Major and Knapp of New-York. In the examination your Committee found that all those parties had been employed in engraving and lithographing for the Government, and that all of them had paid commissions to agents in some manner connected with the business, and they say that the payments thus made had more or less connection with the contracts for the work. Some of these parties state that they found that their old agents could be of no service to them, and that they got the impression here in Washington that their interests would be promoted by the employment of other parties, and that upon the employment of the persons indicated they got work. HOW CONTRACTS ARE OBTAINED.

ment of other parties, and that upon the employment of the persons indicated they got work.

Your committee find that there was a very general belief in the trace that it was necessary for them to pay for their contracts in some way, and that the pay-ment was as general as the belief. Payment was made in different ways: in some instances in the way of loans; in other cases a per centage was paid to sgents for attending to the receipt and delivery of the work at Washington: the necessity for which services sgents for attending to the receipt and delivery of the work at Washington; the necessity for which services existed more in imagination than in reality, as the plates were always sent direct to the Superintendent, and by him were delivered to the printer, who ar-ranged or collected them with the sheets. In other cases the per centage was paid direct to the Superin-terdent.

THE PER CENTAGE AND THE PROFITS. The FER CENTAGE AND THE PIECE CONTROL THE Engravers and lithographers testify, with one or two exceptions, that they could afford to pay the percentage, and that they made a provision in their bids for the allowance which they were compelled to make to the agents. This fact is established by a comparison to the agests. This fact is established by a companion of the prices paid under the late Superintendent and those paid by Mr. Bowman, the present Superintendent. There is nearly fifty per cent difference in favor of the present prices. This is the testimony of Mr. Towers, chief clerk in the office. Mr. Graham testifies that he would have done some of the work at twenty-five per cent, or one fourth, of the price paid and or Mr. Seawar and a reduction penity as great as under Mr. Seaman, and a reduction nearly as great as
this has actually been made in the cost of the work
done on the Coast Survey Report of 1857. The charts
done under contract with Mr. Seaman on that report
for 1856 cost \$4.57 59 each, while the same kind of
charts, somewhat larger in their average size, for the
report of 1857, were contracted for and have been done
under Mr. Bowman for \$49 91 each.
One or two lithographers say that the prices were
about the same that they received from publishers;
but it appears that these parties did not object to loaning money to the late Superintendent, which loans under Mr. Seaman, and a reduction nearly as great as

ing money to the late Superintendent, which loans they have not requested him to return. By reference to the testimony of Messrs. Roberts & Eichell, it will to the testimony of Mesers. Roberts & Eichell, it will
be seen that they agreed to divide the net profits on
the work to be done on the Mechanical Report of the
Patent Office. The contract was given at \$30 per
page, of which sum they estimated \$14 per page as
the net profits. Out of this sum Roberts agreed to pay
Eichell twenty-five per cent for securing the work.
The per centage paid to agents was from five to
twenty per cent upon contracts. In some instances

The per centage paid to agents was from five to twenty per cent upon contracts. In some instances the money was loaned to Mr. Seaman and no security or vouchers were taken for it. In the case of Sarony, Major & Krapp, his name did not appear on the books. The loans had been charged to one of the pariners "for A. G. S." but Mr. Major says that he added the full name of A. G. Seaman after he had been subpensed. To a question put on the subject, the witness answered that the entry was thus made to avoid exposing Mr. Seaman, yet he says that it was a fair and business-like transaction. The last sum in the loan from that house was received by Mr. Seaman in the Sammer of 1854. The party who made loan was subpensed to testify before your Committee. Upon the receipt of the subpens he called upon Mr. Seaman for the amount of the loan, and an arrangement was made by which the sum was returned in a certified check. The party in this particular instance

ment was made by which the sum was returned in a certified check. The party in this particular instance testified that he had not called upon Saman before that time for the money, and that he had called after he had been subpensed, in order that he might be able to testify that Mr. Seaman did not owe him anything.

In another instance, the last sum in a loan of \$3,550 was made four years since, and no demand has been made upon Mr. Seaman for it, or any portion of it, and it remains unpaid. Your Committee found, in another case, that a loan of \$1,500 had been made to Mr. Seaman; that a note taken for it had been renewed from time to time; that the amount was finally paid by the firm and charged to the account of printing expenses, and that the persons making the loan ing expenses, and that the persons making the loan did not, when they made it, expect it to be repaid. The same house paid an additional samto Mr. Sea nan of \$750, which your Committee find was in considera-tion of contracts given it.

Your Committee find that the various sums o'

Your Committee find that the various sums of morey paid to the agents employed under different pretenses were paid under the impression that their business interests would be benefitted thereby, and that it was accessary that those payments should be made in order to secure Government contracts. They further find from the testimony that engravers and lithographers, who had previously had work from the Government did not succeed in getting it under Mr. Government, did not succeed in getting it under Mr.

Government, did not succeed in getting it under Mr. Scaman's superintendency until they employed particular agents. The particular agents were after ward employed by all the successful houses.

One of the most successful houses.—Sarony, Major & Krapp—was induced to make, and did make, a housess arrangement with Mr. Wendell, and they opened a branch of their New-York house in this city, which Mr. Wendell was interested. It is in eviin which Mr. Wendell was interested. It is in evi-dence that the establishment of this branch made a material difference in the quantity of work given to houses outside of this city; but the parties say that it was not successful, and, therefore, it was closed. It does not appear that this branch was closed until the recent large orders were nearly or entirely com-

The evidence shows, also, that there was one contract made for the payment of 20 per cent to Mr. Sea-man; but your Committee have been unable to ascer-tain whether the amount was ever actually paid over according to the agreement. THE PAPER CONTRACTS-HOW UNCLE SAM IS

"DONE BROWN" IN THEM.
Your Committee further find that the paper received

from contractors was inferior to the sample, in some cases varying over three cents on the pound, and that little or none of such inferior paper was returned by the Saperintendent. It appears from the testimony that a very considerable quantity of paper which had at different times been rejected by the clerk having charge of the paper department was afterward reeived. In one particular instance, when a large contractor, the contractor came on to Washington and succeeded in getting his paper received.

succeeded in getting his paper received.

It appears that this was done by an agreement to pay a commission for the receipt of his paper. Mr. Megargee, the contractor in this case, compelled one of the manufacturers to make a deduction of about twenty-four cents per ream on the paper supplied, which deduction amounted to \$1,201. In the account received to the manufacturer the deduction is charged to the manufacturer that deduction is charged. as the amount paid on paper which was rejected, b which paper, upon said payment having been made, was received by the Government. This payment is clearly established by the testimony of Mr. Rice, who psid the same, and by the original accounts rendered Mesers. Rice, Kendell & Co. by the house of Megarges & Brothers. That the money was charged in the accounts as paid for that purpose, and paid by Mesers. Rice, Kendall & Co., there is no doubt; but your Committee have not had time to trace it into the hands of any particular person, and they cannot say that Mr. Seaman received the money. When the difficult, about the receipt of this paper took place, Mr. Seaman refused to interfere, thus leaving the contractor in the

hands of his clerk.

The law under which the Government paper is contracted for is, in the opinion of your Committee, very imperfect. While it airects that the bids shall be opened in the presence of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Represenstives, it leaves the selection of the paper entirely to the judg-ment of the Superintendent. Opening the bids in the presence of the officers referred to is an idle formality, as the Superintendent has the right to select any of the paper which in his opinion most nearly approximates to the paper advertised for. Under this provision your Committee find that the Superintendent rejected to the paper advertised for. Chaeff this provision your Committee find that the Superintendent rejected paper which was offered for thirteen cents per pound, because it was too well finished, while he accepted the bid of another party at 13 9-10 cents per pound for inferior paper. This contrast was given to an individual member of the firm of Megargee & Brothers, to which Mr. Seaman is now so largely indebted for borrowed money.

money.

The mode of contracting for paper upon samples fornished by the biders is wrong. The grade of paper should be established, and the bidders should be required to bid to one sample, in which case there would be less favoritism. This plan has been adopted by the present Superintendent with great advantage.

MR. WENDELL FIGURES IN THE BUSINESS. In connection with the paper contract, your Committee have also ascertained that it became necessary for the partice supplying the Government with paper to employ particular agents in the City of Washington to receive their paper, and that those particular agents were employed in all Eustances which your Committee have been enabled to examine. Your Committee further find that one of these particular agents for the

receipt of paper had become objectionable to one or mere of the parties contracting, and that they refused to cortinue bins in that business, when an arrangement was made between one of the contractors and Mr. Seaman for the employment of Mr. Wendell, who afterward became the special agent for all the paper contractors, that Mr. Wendell employed a clerk or agent to do the work for the first year (1856) at a salary of \$1 200, while Mr. Wendel received from the paper contractors for his influence, without doing any work whatever, three and a half per cent commission, or about that amount, which for the two years specified amounted in the aggregate to about \$12,000. receipt of paper had become objectionable to one of fied amounted in the aggregate to about \$12,000,

THE BORROWING PLAN. Your Committee also find that Mr. Seaman was in the habit of borrowing money from the paper con-tractors, as well as engravers and lithographers, and tractors, as wen as the remain unpaid. To one firm that sage sums still remain unpaid. To one firm there appears to be due \$12,283 31, and to an indi-vidual member of the firm nearly \$8,000. No secur-ity was ever taken for these loans, and in most cases no notes whatever were given, and the business partper of the firm, loaning this large amount, stated to your Committee that they had made no demand for the money, did not expect to receive it, and would not the loan had it not been for the official nosition that Mr. Seaman occupied. In other cases notes were given, or discounted by the contractors, which were afterward paid or taken up, in part or whole, by Mr. Seaman. SEAMAN CONTRACTS WITH A PAPER-MAKER FOR

SEAMAN CONTRACTS WITH A PAPER-MAKER FOR A YEARLY SALARY OF \$7,000.

Your Committee have found, in connection with the paper contracts, that Mr. Seaman made a contract with one party for \$7,000 per year, upon the payment of which sum to Mr. Seaman, that party was to have a contract for all the paper he could supply. In the following December the contract for the 45 pound paper was awarded to that party, but the agreement to the \$7,000 a year was not carried out by resson.

to pay the \$7,000 a year was not carried out by reason of the refusal of the senior party interested in farnishng the paper finally to execute it, and no further con-

acts were swarded to that manufactory.

In another instance a contract was made for 52 cunds of paper, with the express understanding that points of paper, with the express inderstanding that one cent per pound was to be deducted from the amount to be paid for the contract to parties in Washington, but your Committee oid not find that the amount was to be paid directly to Mr. Seaman, but to one of the parties who had been acting as special agent for the paper contractors. In a final settlement of that account between the contractor and his commission merchant the contractor refused to allow the emount of \$4,391.92 to be deducted from his account, giving as a reason for refusing that he had already discharged the obligations in another way. In this instance charged the obligations in another way. In this instance the deduction of one cent on every pound of paper was regularly entered on the books of the commission-home, "as per contract;" and one of the firm distictly home, "as per contract;" and one of the firm distictly swears that this sum was to be yaid to one of these mysterious agents, but the amount was finally credited to the manufacturer, because he alleged that it had been settled in a different way. Your Committee were unable to follow this matter out, owing to the danger-ous illness in the family of a witness who otherwise would have been before them. The contractor himself has since decessed. UNANIMOUS CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee are unanimously of the opinion om the evidence, that a combination existed for the purpose of compelling the paper contractors and the athographers and engravers to pay in some way hithographers and engravers to pay it some way—
either in the character of loans or commissions, or directly in money—for the contracts awarded to them.

One of the most remarkable features of this case is
the fact that the parties having business relations
with the government, through the Superintendent's
office, whom your Committee examined, found it necessary or convenient to employ the same parties.

In many instances these contractors had no previous

acquaintance with the agents employed; yet they testify that no special contracts were made for the ser-vices, that no regular per centage was agreed upon between them, and that their business relations were

conducted in the most careless manner.

The testimony in the case forces your Committee to the conclusion that some intimate and confidential relation did exist between Mr. Scaman and the principal parties involved, and that they were not ignorant of the action and interests of each other. It is directly in testimony that one of the paper contractors told Mr. in testimony that one of the paper centractors told Mr. Seaman that he would no longer employ a party who had up to that time acted as an agent for the receipt of the paper; and further, it appears that the Saper-intendent then directed a gentleman who speke to him in behalf of his brother to send him to Mr. Wendell to talk about the matter. The gentleman's brother was soon afterward employed by Mr. Wendell to do the work of an agent at \$1,000 per annum. This person did the work received the paper and saw that it was regularly delivered to the Superintendent or his clerk. For these services Mr. Wendell paid him \$1,000, while Mr. Wendell was recognized as the agent in fact, for which he received large percentages.

The testimony betrays the important facts that the employment of an agent for this duty was a matter of arrangement between the contractor and the Superintendent, and that the agent thus employed did not perform the little work to be done, but, with the knowledge and consent of the contractor and of the Super-

and consent of the contractor and of the intendent, he employed another person, at a small

compensation, to do it.

Independent of any criminal intent, this conduct and the relations thus established were undoubtedly wrong. Mr. Seaman was the officer of Government, whose duty it was to inspect, and if necessary reject the paper furnished; while Mr. Wendell was the Public Pinter, who used the paper, who knew the quality of the article, and who was the only person likely to complain of its quality. The Superintendent was a large and constant borrower from the contractors, and thus far lost his independence; while the Public Printer became the bired agent of the contractors, and positively interested in the receipt of their paper, no matter how indifferent its quality.

AMOUNT OF LOANS TO SEAMAN. Independent of anit.

AMOUNT OF LOANS TO SEAMAN. Your Committee and that Mr. Soaman received from the engravers, lithographers and paper contractors examined during the investigation—in the way of loans thiefy, but a portion in money direct—about the gross

wendell's share of the spoils. Your Committee find as heret fore stated, that Mr. Wendell received from the paper contractors about \$12,000. The evidence shows that he also received from engravers and lithographers, during Mr. Sen-man's superintendency, about \$27,000—making the gress sum paid to him, as far as ascertained, about

\$30,000.
In addition to these sums, there are two payments unexplained—the sum of \$1,301 52; the one cent a pound which was contracted to be paid and was paid. some one, or arranged in some way, and the sum \$1,201, which was deducted from the account Messre. Rice, Kendall & Co., by Mr. Megargee.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT IN VERMONT-ONE

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune

WEST PAWLET, Vt , March 1, 1859.

As the evening train north had passed our depot about one hundred rods, the whole of it was thrown from the track down an embarkment of thirty feet, turning the engine, tender and baggage car comover and badly smashing them up. Mr. — Holden of Arlington, Vt, was in the baggage car, and was instantly kirled. The passergers escaped with a few bruises. The ergineer and fireman strange to say, escaped with a slight bruise each. It is supposed that the cattle train had turned a rail, thus causing the disaster. There were a few trees that helped break the fall of the cars in their down rush, or the result would have been worse. Mr. Holden was a single man, his brother is station agent at Shushan, N. Y. He is the first passenger that nay been killed on the road since the cars commenced running, eight years ago.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

THE BLACK WARRIOR.

We are informed by Capt. Merritt, one of the Underwriters' agents, that the steamship Black Warrior is completely broken up amidships, although her walking beam is still standing. About fifteen feet of her bow, and 25 feet of her stern remain out of water. Her machinery will probably be all saved. The steamship Marion has not yet been floated.

The Cunard steamer Africa, Capt. Stanton, left vesterday afternoon for Liverpool, with 72 passengers, and \$662,216 in specie.

The new Commandant of the Navy-Yard has had a watch-bex erected at the gate, in which a man is stationed to take note of the movements, in and out, of the bosces attached to the different workshops, and to report on any lengthy absence of the employees. Tais step has been considered advisable in consequence of the many complaints that have been made before and since the proceedings of the Investigating Committee in relation to overseers going out to the city on private business and leaving their departments to idle journey-

Capt. Foote, Surgeon Jackson and Lieut, Mellany of this station have been subpensed to attend a trial of some slave-stealers at New Haven.

Liept. Barnet has been ordered to Key West.

THE SICKLES TRAGEDY.

SICKLES AND KEY.

Correspondence of Tae N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, March 1, 1859. The town talk is still of the Sickles and Key affair. Intelligent Washington, living in the hotels or resorting to them, has not yet sprung a new topic; and stupid Washington is of course agape. Society still mourns the loss of a fashionable young man; and Congress divides its thoughts between Appropriation bills and the absent member whose name is brought to mind at every call of the roll. Never was a pisce mad for scandal than Washington, and an event like this at once gives a unity to the heterogeneous elements of which the city, toward the close of a session, is composed. The air is still fu'l of flying rumors, but it has been definitively settled which killed and which was killed, although there is a division of opinion as to whether it was the thorax or the abdomen that received the ball, as was the case in "the School for

Scandal." Public opinion at first set strongly in favor of Mr Sickles, almost every man feeling that he himself would have acted substantially as the homicide did arder similar circumstances; but as more and more light has been shed upon the previous history of the parties, the current has changed, and men ask whether Mr. Sickles was the man to cast this stone, or his wife the woman in whose behalf so bloody a revenge is expasable. Against her and against Mr. Butterworth the tide sets more strongly than ever.

One is certain of nothing in this scandal loving city but the few facts which I subjoin are. I believe, au thentic-at all events, they come from persons likely to know, and such of them as were accessible have been corroborated by observation.

That the intimacy between Mrs. Sickles and Mr. Key was brought to her husband's attention a year ago is known. A Mr. B. of New York, whose name it is unnecessary to give in full, being rather a susceptible yourg man, last session fell violently in love with Mrs. Sickles, who was always free in manners, and flattered by devotion, as what woman is not? He soon became jealous of District-Attorney Key, and watched him. At length he found what seemed to him a sufficient basis for his suspicions. It came to his knowledge that the guilty pair were locked together in a private room in one of our hotels, I believe for two hours. He communicated this fact to Mr. Sickles, who, to his kind informant's surprise, assailed him with abative language and forbade him his house thenceforward. Mr. B. returned to New-York crestfallen, and Mr. Key remained master of the field, continuing to be intimate with both man and wife, as herelofore.

Last Summer, Key was in New-York on no ostensible business. It was noticed that he daily left his hotel at precisely the same hour, and it is now conjectured

that his regular appointment was. Having been told somewhat in detail what the arrangements for meeting were, I had the curiosity to visit the house in Fifteenth street, which Key hired three months ago, at \$50 a month. Having heard it described as a poor negro hat in the fields, I was surprized to find that it was built of substantial brick, and tood directly upon the street. It is a queer building, two stories in hight, narrow, with a roof slightly sloping toward the sidewalk, a small porch, and an L

running back to a muddy alley.

A wooden stable stands next door. A man, who was grooming a horse in front of it, said that he had almost very morning at 9 or 10 o'clock seen Mr. Key, who n he knew by sight, enter the front door of the brick house. He came generally on foot, but sometimes on borseback, hitching his iron-gray to a convanient post. O hers had seen Mrs. Sickles go in at the same door rarely; but he never had. This tallies with my information from another quarter.

It seems that Key was in the habit of signifying his presence in the house by a red ribbon hung from an upper window in the rear, which can be seen from the cross streets. Mrs. Sickles would walk down one of there, usually K street, which is nearest her house, and upon catching sight of the welcome signal, would dart between the negro buts, up the blint alley, along ore side of which runs a path, comparatively dry, and by a back gate would reach the trysting place. Someimes she was in her morning dress, sometimes dis guised, often with her face enveloped in a close hood.

The house is conveniently near, being only two squares northerly and one easterly of her husband's recidence, which used to be occupied by Judge Woodbury, and is about equi-distant from the White House, the War Department and the Jackson statue in the center of the park on which it fronts. In the direct line between the two houses, between Lafayette square and the negro quarter, and not much more than a sharp rifle-shot from each, are the most sumptuous residences in Washington-Mr. Corsoran's for one, Senator Slidell's for another. The contrast is even more striking than that between Ronalway and Mar cer street. But Washington is a city of contrasts. By lengthening her walk a little, Mrs. Sickles could go or come by a different road every day for a fortaight; and her proper and lawful errands might lead her within a stone's throw of her lover.

However, they could telegraph to each other across the Park, he being an habitue of what is called the Washington Club-House, a misnomer now, the club having been dissolved a year ago. The building is still used, however, as a private restaurant, and is much frequented by the fashionable young bloods of the town and their friends from abroad.

All these circumstances were calculated to work upon the imagination and to fire the blood of a romantic young Italian, such as Mrs. Sickles is. And Key said last Summer-who, although to one intimate with him, did not then sospect him of this-that he was for French intrigue. A fig for common hoense! Freach intrigue and romance, with a good spice of danger

A person who saw the two leave the house, after one of their meetings, somewhat more than a week seo, he by the front, she by the back door, also saw a man closely wrapped in a stawl, standing where he could see, and apparently observing them. This man s believed to be an inmate of Mr. Sickles's house. It would be injudicious to publish his name, since the annoymous letters are ascribed to him. Letters, I sayfor my information is that the one received on Thursday or Friday last was not the first nor the second, but the last of a series, and was more explicit in its statements than any of the preceding. If this be so, as is affirmed upon apparently good authority, it will materially alter the aspect of the case; and not in favor of Mr. Sickles.

I took the pains to look at the murdered man as he lay in his coffin in his own house to-day. He must have been more than six feet tall, and very well proportioned. The body was strewed with white camelias. The face was calm in expression, and still more the sandy mustache which adorted it in life. For up ward of two hours a motley crowd-boy and man, rich and poor, black and white, free and slave-poured through the parlor to take a glimpse of the corpse. Only when the clergymen took their places, did the mourgers-few in number, for the mother of the dead man, now more than seventy years of age, who mourns the violent death of the third of her five sone, is in Baltimore, and the children are with her.

Mr. Key could not have resembled Mr. Sickles very nearly, and yet a gentleman told me to-day that he had, within six months, been mistaken for each of them: in Mr. Key's case, by Mrs. Sickles herself.

According to the most trustworthy accounts, it would seem that Mr. Key was not thought to be a bbertine, as has been charged, by those who knew him best. His health was such as, in their opinion, would preclude such a life. His nerves were shattered partially, it was then believed, in convequence of grief for the loss of his wife, two years since, but doubtless almost altogether by his dissipated habits. The condition to which he had been reduced forced him to give up drinking latterly. He never studied very hard, and of late relied mainly upon his natural talents for success at the bar. He was what some may call a "first-rate fellow;"

I turned immediately, and saw K. thrust his hand in his vest or side-coat pocket, and take a step in the direction of Mr. Sickles, and simultaneously I heard the discharge of a pistol. Key then rapidly advanced on Sickles, seized him with his left hand by the collar of his coat, and seemed to make an effort to strike with something in his right hand, which I then supposed to be a weapon. Mr. S. backed into the middle

ready at a joke or a frolic, and an excellent story teller. And, what would be singular, I am sorry to tay, in the case of any man, and is especially singular in his case, his stories rarely if ever bordered on the obscene. My informant says that in all his intercourse he never heard him tell one of that description. He effected eccentricity in manner and costume; was nucouth in speech and rough in address purposely. He would come to dinner with a riding whip under his arm, and was sometimes seen in the street wearing topboots and leather leggings. Notwithstanding these pseuliarities to was intimate with gentlemen who stood well in our resident society, such as Mayor Berret, Mr. Clement Hill, and Mr. Ogle Taylor - whose carriage followed the hedree to-day-and was always at home in their houses. He was, in a word, a young man of fashion, who dared o be unconventional, and was able to be something else than a man about town. His talents are nodoubted, but his career as District-Attorney is principally marked, elsewhere than in this city, by his failare to convict in the case of the California Herbert tried for killing a waiter-an off-nse, it must be owned, upon which boarders at a Washington hotel are in clined to look leniently. He was lavish of money spent a great deal on horse flesh, and would often hire a carriage-here, where one is so dear-to carry him a

People still wonder how Mr. Sickles has been erabled to live as he has been living this Winterr It is said that he received absolutely nothing from his ather or his wife's relatives.

It is undoubtedly for Mr. Sickles's interest that the trial should take place as soon as possible. His evdence is on the spot, while the presecution will be obliged to look to New York for theirs, unless they corfice themselves to the facts attending the deed itself, and make no inquiries into character. It now seems probable that the Grand Jory will take up the case on Monday, bring in a bill on Tuesday, and have the case ready for trial by Wednesday of next week.

From statements that have gone abroad, it might be a ferred that Mrs. Sick es occupied a high position Washington society. This would be a mistake. Her receptions were largely attended it is true; but so are those of almost every lady who chooses to keep open bouse here. The truth is, that she stood upon rather dublone ground; and I have heard more than one gentleman of undoubted position scoff at the supposition that he had ever crossed her threshold. Her position was one which every person who chooses to give good dinners can obtain; nothing better. The select circles

STATEMENTS OF SAMUEL F. BUTTER-WORTH, ESQ. THE HON. ROBERT J. WALKER, AND OTHERS.

Washington, Tuesday, March 1, 1859. The following statements, from Mr. Butterworth and the Hor. Robert J. Waiker, have been made to-day. They furnish a full and reliable history of all the cir comstances attending this most unhappy occurrence MR. BUTTERWORTH'S STATEMENT.

In consequence of erroneous and false statements which have appeared in the public press in relation to the d-ath of Mr. P. Barton. Key, I feel it is necessary that I should state the facts, so far as I am connected with the occurrence.

with the occurrence.

On Sunday merning, about 12 o'clock m., I received, at the house of a friend with whom I was staying, a note from the Hon. Mr. Suckles, saying: "Dear B.—
"Come to me right away I" which I showed to the Hen. Rebert J. Walker and Senator Gwin, with whom I was then converging. I asked the bearer note who was there, and said to my friends, "

note who was there, and said to my friends, "What can Mr. Sickles desire?"

I immediately went to the house of Mr. Sickles. On my arrival I found Mr. Sickles in his bedroom, lying on his face on his pillow, overwhelmed with said. Some time elapsed before I could obtain from him an account of the capse of his affliction. He kept exclaiming, "I am a disborored and ruined man, and "cannot look you in the face!" Finally, he disclosed to me the following circumstances:

On Friday Mr. Sickles received an anonymous letter, stating that his wife was in the habit of meeting a lady there, corresponding in dress and appearance to the wife of Mr. S.

Being possessed of these facts, he stated them to his

pearance to the wife of Mr. S.

Being possessed of these facts, he stated them to his wife on Saturday night. She said at once that "she "perceived she was discovered," and thereupon made a full confession of her guilt in writing.

By this confession it appeared that this criminal intercourse had been going on since April, 1858—sometimes in the absence of Mr. S., at the house of her

husband—and that at the commencement of the pres-ent session of Congress, Mr. Key had hired an unten-anted house, on Fifteenth street, where they were in the habit of meeting frequently.

After he had apprised me of the foregoing facts, he consulted me as to the course he should pursue. I advised him to send his wife to her mother at New-

York—that, as it was now near the close of the ses-sion, it would excite no remark; that during the time intervening between the close of this session and the commercement of the next, he could go to Europe for a few months, and, in the mean time, a separation could be arranged between himself and his wife; that I presumed the affair was known only to one or two persons beyond mere surmise, and that for the honor of his little daughter, and his wife's friends, this course should be pursued. To this Mr. Sickles replied, "My friend, I would

gladly pursue this course, but so abandoned, so reck-less, have Key and my wife been, that all the negroes in that neighborhood, and I dare not say how many other persons, know all about the circumstances."

other persons, know all about the circumstances."

I then left Mr. S. in his befroom, and on going down stairs I met in the library Mr. George B. Woodridge, a Clerk of the House of Representatives. I said to him, "This is a terrible affair!" He then handed me the written statement made by Mrs. Sickles of her goilt, which was written and signed, as I was then informed, by Mrs. S. in the presence of two females, and witnessed by them. I read the statement, laid it down on the table, and said, "I will go down town for a while, and return here again," and requested Mr. Wooldridge to say so to Mr. S. if he should inquire for me.

I immediately left the house and walked to the Club on Sixteenth street, drank a glass of ale with a friend

and slowly returned to the house of Mr. Suckles.

On entering the Library again, Mr. Wooldridge informed me that Key had twice passed the house during the morning, and had a short time since waved his handkerchief three times as a signal.

While in conversation with Mr. Wooldridge, Mr. Sinkles campitate the Library and wild that as had

Sick'es came into the Library, and said that me had "seen the scoundrel making signals," and he added, "My God! this is horrible!" I said, "Mr. Sickles, you must be calm, and look his matter square in the face. If there be a poss y of keeping the certain knowledge of this crime

e public, you must do nothing to destroy that possi-lity. You may be mistaken in your belief that it is known to the whole city."

He instantly replied, "No, no, my friend—I am not!
It is already the town-talk!"

I then said, " If that he so, there is but one course

I then said, "If that he so, there is but one course left for you as a man of honor. You need no advice."

After a few moments elence, Mr. S. said that he "was satisfied that Key had been in the Club House opposite," and what surprised him very much was that his wife strenously denied this, though freely confessing her guilt. He then walked into the hall, and said to me, "Come, go over with me to Stant's reom, in the Club House, and he may be able to inform me whether Key has a room there, and for what purpose he uses it." I assented, and walked out into the street, supposing that Mr. Sichles was following me. I left the house for this sole purpose.

When I left Mr. S. in the hall, I am satisfied that he had no weapons on his networn. He was without his

When I left Mr. S. in the hall, I am satisfied that he had no weapons on his person. He was without his exercest. He said nothing to me about weapons, or the probability of encountering Key.

I walked slowly down the avenue on the south side to the corner, and as I was crossing the street I saw Key advance a few steps toward me. He saluted me, erying, "Good morning, Butterworth—what a fine day we have!" I responded, and said, 'Have you come from the Club!" He said, "I have." I asked, "I saturation his room! He answered, "Yes, and he is quite unwell." I then said, "I am going up to see him; good morning!" and turned to leave him. As I did so, I saw Mr. Sickles for the first time after leaving his house, coming rapidly down Sixteenth leaving his house, coming rapidly down Sixtoenth street, on the side next the square, and then near the

corner.

I had walked about thirty feet on my way to the Club, when I heard Mr. S. exclaim, in a loud voice, "Key, you sconddrel, you have dishonored my house the control of the control -you must die!"
I turned immediately, and saw K. thrust his hand

of the street, when he succeeded in extricating himse of the street, when he succeeded in extricating himselfrom Key's grasp, drew a nistel from his overseat pocket, and pressited it at Key, who retreated backward up S xieepth street, toward the Club, and three something at Sickles. Sickles followed, and when within ten feet, fired. I saw that Key was wounded. He staggered toward the sidewalk, saying. "Don't shoot me!" He leaned for a moment against a true, when Sickles advanced upon him, exploded a cap, and then fired the third time.

en fired the third time.

As Key was falling, Sickles frequently exclained

As Key was falling, Sickles frequently exclaimed. "You vislain you have dishonored my house, and you must die!" He uttered these words again while standing over Key with his revolver in his hand.

I took no part in the contest. I believed them both to be armed. When I left Mr. Sickless house I had no thought of meeting or seeing Mr. Key, my object being to visit Mr. Suart. I had no arms with me. I did not know that Mr. Sickles intended to take arms with him. He left the house after me, and, without any suggestion from me, came toward the Club on the north side of the square. When Mr. Key sainted me north side of the square. When Mr. Key sainted me north side of the square. When Mr. Key saisted me I did not know that Mr. Sickles was approaching, nor did I see him until I turned to leave Mr. Key. I did not

ded see him until I turned to leave air. Key. I did not see Mr. Sickles shook Key after his fall, nor place his pistel in contact with his head or clothing.

After the third fire, I advanced and took Mr. Sickles's arm, and walked with him up Sateenth street, and advised him to go to his house, or to the Attorney-General's. He did so. I returned to the scene and picked up an opera glass from the middle of the street, and gave it to Mr. Sickles.

This is the whole for the street of the street in the middle of the street, and gave it to Mr. Sickles.

of the street, and gave it to Mr. Schles.

This is the whole of my connection with this unfortunate occurence. It is not true that I either sought or detained Mr. Key. He first addressed me, and our interview did not last one micute. I have known the last Mr. Key in New-York and in Washington during the last ten years, and our relations have ever been of the most friendly character. I did not anticipate a collision on the Sabbath, though I did not doub; but that it would take place at an early day. that it would take place at an early day.

SAMUEL F. BUTTERWORTH.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. J. S. WALKER.

At the close of last week I came here from New.
York. On Sunday morning, after breakfast, I visited
the Hon. William Gwin and his family, at his hous,
where I met Mr. Samuel F. Butterworth. We were

the Hen. William Gwin and his family, at his hous, where I met Mr. Samuel F. Butterworth. We was converving, when a servant came in and handed a not to Mr. Butterworth, who then, after reading the total remarked: "Sickles wishes to see me immediately; adding," What can this mean? 'and left at once.

I remained conversing most of the time with Dr. Gwin, when, in the course of an hour or two, someone—a servant, I think—entered and said: "Mr. Sickles has just shot Barton Key dond." I asked what was the canse, when some one irquired of me: "Did you never hear the stories as to Mr. Key and Mr. Sickles!" I replied, "No," never having heard their names connected in any way.

I proposed in a few moments to go to the Clab House where the dead body of Mr. Key was said to be, and ascertain the facts. Dr. Gwin's carriage being at the door. I drove at once rapidly to the Clab House, and was informed of the death of Mr. Key, and that Mr. Sickles and Mr. Butterworth bad goes to Judge Black's, where I drove at once, and was to Judge Black's, where I drove at once, and was to that Mr. Sickles and Mr. Butterworth had gone to the President's. When on the way, meeting the Bod, John Slidell, I stopped the carriage, and on inquiry learned that Messrs. Sickles and Batterworth had just gone, or were going, to sickles's house, to which I proceeded at once, and entering the bods parker, met Mr. Butterworth there alone. He appeared deeply distressed. This fact, together with my sayard and sympathy for Mr. Sickles, my affection from Mr. Butterworth, my long and intimate acquaintases with Mr. Key, and friendship for him, so overwhelmed ne with grief that I could not speak to Mr. Butterworth for several moments. When at length with deep emotion, he said: "My friend, you should not grieve so deeply. It is deplorable, but Mr. Key deserved his fate."

I then asked Mr. Butterworth to state the facts to re, which he did, narrating the incidents substantially as they are now given in his accompanying state-

rre, which he did, narrating the incidents substantially as they are now given in his accompanying state

I then said, "The meeting was not advised by you!"

I then said, "The meeting was not advised by yor!"
Mr. Butterworth replied, "No, I did not expect any
meeting to-day, although I apprehended a collision as
probable at some future period, but when or how I did
not know, nor had Mr. Sickles ever stated to me."
At that moment Mr. Sickles extered the room, when,
after saluting me warmly, he threw himself on a sofa
in an agony of the deepest distress I have ever witnessed. His grief was so appalling, his exclamations
so constant of the dishonor Mr. Key had brought en
his house and upon his wife and child, that I feared
he would become incane, and thought of sending for a

he would become insane, and thought of sending for a physician. I united, however, with B. in endeavoring to pacify him, but we did not succeed for some time. At length he became calm, and saying he was ready to accompany the magistrate for whom he had sent, as I understood, and Prince was to the Market Country of the sent to th I understood, arr. Discourant, arr. coares, the Ma-gistrate, Mr. Goddard, the Mayor, Mr. Brett and my-self, all proceeded in the carriage to the front room of the prison, where, after a brief statement of the mere fact of the killing and death, Mr. Sickles was commit-

ted for further examination.

Mr. B. and myself then drove to the Club-Rosm, Mr. B. and myself then drove to the Club-Roem, where the Coroner's inquest was being held over the dead body of Mr. Key. At the Club-Room we met Dr. Gwin, and drove with him to his house. Mr. Butterworth then repeated, substantially, to Mr. Gwin, the same narrative he had given me, which narrative Mr. Sickles confirmed in a subsequent statement to me, interrupted by deep agony about his daughter and about his wife, who, he said, was a mere child; adding, that for their sakes he might have tried to suffer in silence, without home or hope in this world, but after the signals and the disgrace became public, he neither asked nor wanted advice as to his course.

nor wanted advice as to his course. Washington City, Tuesday, March 1, 1819. Mr. Wooldridge, a Clerk of the House of Representa-

tives, states that he was present at the last interview between Mesers. Sickles and Butterworth, on Sunday, n Mr. Sickles's library, and that every particular e that interview, as stated by Mr. B. in his card of today, is correct. Senator Gwin of California says that the nerrative

given by Mr. Butterworth and the Hon. Robert J. Walker, with which his name is connected, is traly stated.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. KEY.

The funeral took place at 2 o clock p. m., from the late residence of the deceased, on C street, nearly opposite Col. Benton's house. In the parlor the corpes, which had been placed in the coffin, was exposed to the view of the numerons friends who desired to behold in death him whom they had loved during life. The coffin was of mahogany, covered with black cloth, and heavily silver mounted. In it lay the body in full dress, viz, black cloth cont and pants, white vest and white hid gloves. In his hands was placed a bouquet of fragrant flowers, and inside the coffin was strewed inponiens, grannium leaves and other crotics. strewed japonicas, geranium leaves and other exition. On the coffin lid was a silver plate, bearing the follow-

ing inscription: PHIL. BARTON KEY, died Feb. 27, 1859, aged 39 years." The features of the deceased wors so lifelike an ex-pression as to make it difficult for the spectator to realize that that once noble form lay in the stillness of

desth.

At lo'clock p. m. the members of the Bar and officers of the Court met at the City Hall, and proceeded
to the house of the decessed. At 20 clock, a large crost
of people had assembled in the street in front of Mr.
Key's house. The doors were thrown open for the admission of such as could obtain places isside, as
shortly afterward the funeral service of the Episcopal
Charch for the dead was read over the remains by the Church for the dead was read over the remains by its Rev. Drs. Pinckney and Butler. The coffin was then placed in the hearse, and, fol-

The coffin was then placed in the hearse, and, followed by a large concourse of people, was conveyed to the railroad depot for transmission to Baltimore, accompanied by the pall-hearers and other intimate friends of the deceased. The pall-hearers were James M. Carlisle, esq., Charles Lee Jones, esq., Richard Wallach, esq., Jos. H. Bradley, sen,, esq., P. R. Fesdall, esq., W. D. Davidge, esq., A. B. Upsher, esq., and Richard H. Weightman, esq. They accompany the corpse to Baltimore. The body was taken to the cars to go by the 3 o'clock train to Baltimore, where is to be placed by the side of his wife and child.

From the Washington Star of Tuesday.

It is raid that two men, rather than two ladies, were the witnessing parties to Mrs. Sickles's confession. On his arrival at the jail, on Sunday night, Mr. Sickles was placed in the cell devoted to prisoner charged with homicide, but the cell proved to be so full of vermin that it was found necessary to remove him yesterday to the jailer's room, where he remained during the day.

During yesterday he received a great many dis patches from all parts of the country from friends proffering sympathy and assistance.

He slept well Sanday night, also last night for for hours, and has been cool and self-possessed except once yesterday, when jutimate friends called to see him, and some indiscreet remarks from some of them with respect to his wife and call drove him nearly frantic, and he tocal his hair and cave way to passes.

frantic, and he tore his hair and gave way to passion ate expressions of grief on their account.

He rose early this morning, smoked a cigar, and so a barber to shave him. Many friends are visiting him Mr. King, the jailer, has had a cell fitted up asi

white-washed and vermin cleared out to put the pro-oner in, where he will remain till his trial comes of. He will be placed in said call this evening as soon as

is dry.

Mr. Sickles was originally a printer by occupation.

He is distinguished by much fascination of manner,
and in personal appearance is somewhat of a "lady
killer."

To-day artists are engaged in taking photographic